

I would like you to complete this assignment before you get to Research class in August. Essentially, the purpose of this assignment is to establish an idea for your research project, determine the gap in research that your project will fill, and determine whether or not it is a feasible project for you to complete. That being said, check out the following steps; they will help guide you.

1. Come up with a list of ten things that you could talk about for 3 hours or more. Nothing is too outrageous (as long as it is appropriate for school)! For example, maybe you could talk about video games, shoes, Grey's Anatomy, NBA statistics, Disney restaurants, food (in general), nutrition, global warming, economics, sleep, etc. for hours without becoming bored.
2. Decide what makes you upset/annoyed/intrigued about one of these topics. For example, I have convinced my own children that playing video games for hours upon hours can rot your brain. Does that annoy/intrigue you? I have heard people complain that it is more expensive to eat healthy than it is to eat food that is poor in nutritional value. How does that make you feel? School lunch. Enough said. How about sleep? I hear teenagers complain about being sleep deprived all the time. Would you agree? How does that make you feel? (duh...tired, right? Lol)
3. Once you determine what makes you annoyed/upset/intrigued, you have a basis for your project. Now, the next step is to research that topic. Let's use the *sleep deprivation in high school students* topic as an example. You would look up (AND READ...or at least skim) EVERYTHING you can find about this topic. For now, just read as much as you can. The goal is to look for a gap in research.
4. The gap in research is the hole that exists in this field of research. In other words, say to yourself, "Research on this topic has already been done; however, it has never been done \_\_\_\_\_." Fill in the blank. What is the gap? For example, it has only been done using college students as participants, but nobody has ever surveyed middle school students. OR... "So many studies have been done on sleep deprivation in high school students; however, nobody has looked at how \_\_\_\_\_ influences sleep." That statement is important! It will be your gap and it MUST be in your paper!
5. Now ask yourself, "Can I do this study in 6 months or less?" If the answer is yes, continue to Step 6. If the answer is no, go back to Step 2 and start over.
6. Once you have your gap, now you can go back to all that research you read and choose a minimum of 10 pieces to list in an annotated bibliography. A Hass annotated bib is a bit different from others, so pay attention. Here's what I want:
  - The APA citation for the source. Please make sure you have searched up how to do APA citations. Purdue Owl is your friend!
  - A short summary (5 sentences MAX!) of what the study/research/source is about. What did they study? What did they find?
  - One sentence telling me how this source would help support the need for your project.

This assignment will be graded, and it is a critical first step in preparing for this class. The more you accomplish now, the less you will have to do later.

I am REALLY looking forward to embarking on this research adventure with all of you! -Dr. Hass